

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: April 1, 2014

REGULAR _____ CONSENT X EFFECTIVE DATE April 1, 2014

DATE: March 21, 2014

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Adam Bless 

THROUGH: Jason Eisdorfer, Maury Galbraith and Aster Adams  

SUBJECT: OREGON PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION STAFF: (Docket No. UM 1538) Request by Andrew Koyaanisqatsi and Kenneth Hayes for a waiver of the 12-month solar photovoltaic system installation requirement pursuant to OAR 860-084-0210(1).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

I recommend the Commission grant the request by Andrew Koyaanisqatsi to extend the deadline to install a solar photovoltaic system (SPV) at the Kenneth Hayes property under the Portland General Electric (PGE) Solar Incentive Program by two months, to June 15, 2014.

DISCUSSION:

Issue

On March 7, 2014, Andrew Koyaanisqatsi requested a waiver of the deadline for installation of a solar photovoltaic system (SPV) under the PGE Solar Incentive Program. Mr. Koyaanisqatsi is the contractor installing the project on behalf of Kenneth Hayes. The project was originally enrolled in the program in October 2012, with an installation deadline of October 15, 2013. In October 2013, the Commission granted an extension to April 15, 2014. Mr. Koyaanisqatsi now requests an additional two months, which would make the new deadline June 15, 2014.

Rule

The applicable rule is OAR 860-084-0210(1), which states that a capacity reservation expires if the system has not been installed within 12 months of the reservation start date, unless a waiver is granted under OAR 860-084-0000(3). The evaluation criteria

set forth in OAR 860-084-0000(3) for waiver of Division 84 rules is "good cause" shown. The Commission has discretion to determine what constitutes "good cause."

Analysis

In this case, Mr. Koyaanisqatsi's waiver request indicates that he made a reasonable effort to complete the project on time. Installation was proceeding according to schedule until January 2014, when there was a misunderstanding between Mr. Koyaanisqatsi and PGE regarding the need to run a new service line from the transformer. PGE and Mr. Koyaanisqatsi have resolved the issue, but the solution they arrived at requires new parts that will not be delivered until late March 2014; too late to meet current deadline. Mr. Koyaanisqatsi has allowed for time for final inspections by the PGE and Washington County, and requests a new deadline of mid-June.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The progress on the project up until January, the unexpected issue regarding the service line from the transformer to the customer's service, and the work done by Mr. Koyaanisqatsi and PGE to resolve the service issues, constitute good cause. I recommend granting the new deadline of June 15, 2014.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

The request by Andrew Koyaanisqatsi and Kenneth Hayes to waive the 12-month installation requirement for the SPV system under PGE's Solar Incentive Program be granted and the deadline extended to June 15, 2014.